19th November 1930]

Alleged lathi charges made by the Police on civil disobedience volunteers.

* 24 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) under what provision of law lathi beatings or charges are made by the Police in the several parts of the Presidency; and

(*b*) how many lathi charges have been made by the Police on civil disobedience volunteers in this Presidency within the last six months, and what are the place, date and the number of the wounded and dead in each of the said charges?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sections 127 and 128 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(*b*) The Government have no exact information, and as no serious injuries were inflicted by lathis, consider that no useful purpose would be served by calling for the particulars suggested.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the Government have any information as to whether any Catholic woman died of injuries received in the course of lathi charge at Mangalore?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I don't remember; Notice."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"In answer to clause (*b*) of the question, it is stated that no serious injuries were inflicted by lathis. May I know whether Government do not consider the death of a Roman Catholic woman as a serious injury?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I think the hon. Member may answer it himself. (Laughter.)"

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"Will the Government call for information as to how many persons died as a result of lathi charge?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"It is stated in the answer to clause (*b*) that no serious injuries were inflicted. Sir, is it or is it not a fact that in one place, Bhimavaram, very serious injuries were inflicted on some volunteers and it was brought to the notice of the Subdivisional Magistrate of that place?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir, as far as I remember."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that, under sections 127 and 128 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Police are authorized to use force only after the meeting becomes disorderly and is declared an unlawful assembly; and if so, may I know what were the steps that were taken by the authorities before lathi charges were made?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"In every case orders were given prohibiting meeting, and if it took place, in spite of the order, then orders were issued to disperse the crowd, and if the people still refused to go away, then lathi charges were made."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether Government are aware that in every case assemblies of people were declared unlawful, and if so, may I know by what method was it declared unlawful?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"Government are satisfied that on account of the unruly nature of the assemblies the Police had declared them unlawful before using force."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"In answer to clause (b), it is stated that no serious injuries were inflicted. May I know whether the seriousness or otherwise of the injuries is to be decided by the persons who inflicted them or by those who received them?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The Government are the best judge to decide that."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know what exactly is meant by the phrase 'serious injury'?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"It is determined by the extent and the nature of the injury one receives."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt :—"May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that solitary volunteers picketing in front of toddy shops have been beaten mercilessly?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The Government have no information."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to call for a report in every case of lathi charge?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The suggestion will receive due attention."

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar :—"May I know whether the Superintendent of Police has absolute power to do anything he pleases within his jurisdiction?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"The Government are absolutely confident that only reasonable orders will be passed."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt :—"Are the orders that they pass within the four corners of the law?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I am absolutely certain of that."

Instructions issued by the Inspector-General of Police to deal with Civil Disobedience Movement.

* 25 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any or all of the instructions regarding the methods to be adopted in the districts for putting down civil disobedience were issued by the Inspector-General of Police ; if so, what are the said instructions, and under what authority were the instructions issued by him?